

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application as filed. In this paper, claim 1 has been amended.

The amendments made herein add no new matter. Any amendment to the claims which has been made in this Amendment and Response, and which has not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto.

Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Non-Compliant Amendment

A Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment asserts that the Amendment filed on October 16, 2007, fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.121 or 1.4. The assertion is traversed.

The Notice asserts that “Double brackets should be used in instances where strike-outs are difficult to see. Also, the claims contain strike-outs that do not appear to be deleting text.”

On January 14, 2008, a telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned was held to discuss the alleged non-compliance. Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s courtesy of an interview. The undersigned was advised that the deletions of the commas in claim 1 should be enclosed in double brackets as the strike-outs were unclear. Additionally, the strike-out preceding the word “and” in claim 1 did not appear to be deleting text.

The undersigned explained that the strike-out was intended to delete spacing in order to move the word “and” to the preceding line, immediately following the added semicolon. It was agreed that the word “and” would be so moved in a response to the Notice, without the necessity of markings indicating the change.

Claim 1 has been amended to enclose the commas in double brackets, and to move the word “and” to the preceding line, immediately following the added semicolon.

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Examiner: Steven M. Marsh
Group Art Unit: 3632

Applicants request withdrawal of the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, entry of the Amendment, and allowance of claims 1-22.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-22 are allowable over the prior art. If there are any remaining issues which the Examiner believes may be resolved in an interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned. Early notification of allowability is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 17, 2008

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